

## II. SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Pages 5, lines 9-19,

In the research work that led into the present invention, it was found that puncturing has the tendency of causing deviations to an ~~expe~~expected behaviour of the error probability curve that represents the statistical probability of bit errors at each bit position of a frame. Apparently puncturing causes some statistical accumulation of errors into and around certain bit positions. The mechanism is theoretically not easy to understand. However, in the present invention it was found ~~the~~ ~~at least practical~~ that empirical experience can be used to predict and control the error-inducing effect of puncturing.